

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11 DHA-02 SCCT-01 EA-07 EUR-12 AID-05

/102 W

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R 171400Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3959

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/-

TAGS: PFOR, AO, TZ, RW

SUBJECT: RWANDA-TANZANIA RELATIONS ON UPGRADE (FINALLY);
PROBLEM OF CUBAN TROOPS NOTED

REF: KIGALI 193 (NOTAL)

1. FONMIN VISIT - GOT FONMIN KADUMA VISITED RWANDA OFFICIALLY MAR 8-11 AND GOR PUT FORWARD ITS BEST COURTESIES INCLUDING SCENIC TRIPS, DECORATION, RADIO INTERVIEWS AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE. VISIT SIGNIFICANT AS IT IS FIRST BY TOP GOT OFFICIAL (WITH EXCEPTION BRIEF 1975 AIRPORT TRANSIT BY NYERERE) SINCE 1973 RWANDAN COUP D-ETAT WHICH DEPOSED PRES. NYERERE'S CLOSE FRIEND KAYIBANDA AND BROUGHT MILITARY RULE TO RWANDA. ALTHOUGH GOR FOREIGN POLICY OF "OUVERTURE" SUCCESSFUL IN MARKEDLY IMPROVING RELATIONS OTHER ADJOINING STATES, GOT/GOR RELATIONS HAVE REMAINED COOL AND DISTANT. FONMIN VISIT FOLLOWS UPON RECENT MEETING BETWEEN PRES NYERERE AND
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HABYARIMANA (PLUS BURUNDI'S MICOMBERO) AT MWANZA LAST MONTH.

RWANDAN FONMIN TOLD AMB MARCH 12 GOR "RELIEVED" RELATIONS WITH TANZANIA NO LONGER BEING LEFT TO MOULDER. PRES HABYARIMANA IS UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO PLEASED TO FINALLY BE ACCEPTABLE IN NYERERE'S EYES DESPITE MILITARY STATUS.

2. JOINT COMMUNIQUE

(A) BILATERAL - COMMUNIQUE PLACES PRIMARY STRESS ON RWANDAN INTEREST IN BORDER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SUCH AS AN NZEGA-RUSUMO ROAD (TO LINK WITH CHINESE-CONSTRUCTED KIGALI-RUSUMO ROAD), REGIONAL HYDROELECTRIC STATION AT RUSUMO, AND JOINT EFFORT ERADICATE TETSE FLIES FROM BORDER AREA. LESS REALISTICALLY, REFERENCE ALSO MADE TO CONSTRUCTING TANZANIA-RWANDA RAILROAD. RWANDAN-TANZANIAN EXCHANGES (WHICH HAVE BEEN PRACTICALLY NIL) WILL BE INITIATED TO INCLUDE BORDER AUTHORITIES, SCHOOLCHILDREN, WOMEN'S AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS. GOR FONMIN WILL VISIT DAR AT LATER DATE.

(B) INTERNATIONAL - RITUAL ATTENTION DEVOTED IN EXPECTED TERMS TO APARTHEID, COMORES, PLO, ETC. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING SPECIFIC JOINT STATEMENTS RELATING CUBAN TROOPS MAY BE OF INTEREST: SATISFACTION THAT FIGHERS ZIMBABWE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ARE INTENSIFYING ARMED STRUGGLE AGAINST RACIST AND MINORITY IAN SMITH REGIME. CONDEMN ALL MANEUVERS TENDING TO TRANSFORM STRUGGLE INTO "IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICTS." ENEGETICALLY AGAINST A "DIABOLIC PLAN" DESIGNED INSTALL A PUPPET REGIME WITHOUT CONFIDENCE OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS AS WELL AS "PARALLEL MANEUVERS SEEKING TO TRANSFORM ZIMBABWE INTO ANOTHER VIET-NAM." AT EARLIER RWANDA PRESS CONFERENCE, GOT FONMIN KADUMA DECLARED GOT WOULD "NOT RPT NOT SUPPORT ENTRY SOVIET-CUBAN (SIC) TROOPS INTO NAMIBIA OR ZIMBABWE IN ORDER THAT STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE NOT BE TRANSFORMED INTO IDEOLOGICAL

WAR."

3. COMMENT: (A) COMMUNIQUE DECLARATION DOES NOT QUITE JIBE WITH RWANDAN FONMIN COMMENTS ON CUBAN TROOPS DELIVERED MARCH 8 PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL) IN WHICH HE STATED CUBAN TROOP ACTIVITY COULD BE "DETERMINATIVE" FOR LIBERATION SOUTHERN AFRICA. EMB CONTINUES BELIEVE GOR NOT AS RELAXED ON THE CUBAN ISSUE AS IT CURRENTLY PRETENDS.

(B) RWANDA INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH TANZANIA HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEEN PENDING FOR SEVERAL YEARS. EMB UNINFORMED AS TO TANZANIAN MOTIVATION IN NOW DEIGNING COURT ITS SMALL NEIGHBOR. FRITTS

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